

ANNALS OF NATURAL HISTORY.

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HAVING lately received from my valued friend Mr. Harvey the drawings here represented, and the following descriptions of two extremely interesting plants of Blume's *Rhizanthæa*, I cannot do better than lay them before the public in the state in which I have received them, without venturing to offer any remarks of my own respecting vegetable productions, whose structure, to be rightly understood, must be examined in a recent state, and such an opportunity is of rare occurrence with any naturalist. Mr. Harvey indeed has not had it in his power to compare his plants with the figures and descriptions of allied genera of Richard or of Endlicher in his valuable 'Meletemata Botanica,' and hence he was led to think it possible that they might be referred to *Scybalium* of the latter author; but the characters are extremely different in the two, and I have little hesitation in adopting the name suggested by Mr. Harvey, from the spoon-shaped form of the segments of the perianth, *Mystropetalon*. It seems to belong to the group of *Balanophoræ*. Probably the *Phelypæa sanguinea* of Thunberg, which Jussieu refers to *Cytinus*, and of which Persoon makes the genus *Hypolepis*, may be one of these; but that plant is so ill defined by its discoverer, (who appears to be the only person to whom it is known,) that we cannot possibly come to any satisfactory conclusion; yet "si auctori aliqua fides habenda," as Endlicher remarks, it must be something very different; his being a "diœcious plant, with a 6-lobed perianth, a short style and capitate stigma."

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MYSTROPETALON, HARV. MS.

GEN. CHAR.—*Flowers* monœcious, in dense spikes, the males forming the upper, the females the lower half of the spike. *Bractææ* 3 under each flower, one (*anterior*) generally free, 2 (*lateral*) more or less combined.

MALE: *Perianth* tripartite, the segments spatulate, unguiculate, the two posterior combined. *Stamens* two, opposite to, and inserted on the posterior segments of the perianth, conniving, but not combined; *anthers* versatile, 2-celled, opening longitudinally; *pollen* cubical, with fluted angles!—A very minute abortive ovary.

FEMALE: *Perianth* sub-globose or tubular, tridentate, superior, deciduous. *Torus*? fleshy, cup-like, expanded round the base of the ovary, but attached to it only by a central point, finally deciduous with the ovary, to which it remains attached! *Ovary* ellipsoidal, attenuated at the base, containing a fleshy mass (without distinction of ovules?!). *Fruit* indehiscent, ellipsoidal, with a very thin juicy pericarp, and crustaceous endocarp, containing an indefinite number of minute sporules, into which the whole of the fleshy mass of the ovary appears to be dissolved.

Specific characters.

1. *Mytropetalon Thomii*, Harv. MS.—*Anterior* bractææ broadly oblong, (in anthesis,) one-third longer than the lateral. *Limbs* of the segments of the male perianth lanceolate; female perianth sub-globose, obtusely tridentate (Pl. XIX.).

Hab. “About Caledon Baths.” *Rev. Dr. Thom*, who pointed it out to Mr. Bowie in 1818. Same locality, *Ecklon*, 1831. *Mr. Polemann*, 1837.

Stem thick and fleshy, closely covered with linear, obtuse, smooth scales, the uppermost often bearded at or about the apex, the lowermost sometimes elongated, and sometimes all are so. *Spike* very dense, 3—4 inches long, obtuse.

MALES: *Anterior* bractææ oblong, of nearly equal breadth throughout, obtuse, bearded at the apex and along the prominent keel, ciliated at the margins; the beard and cilia long, orange. *Lateral* bractææ combined at base, sometimes nearly free, oblong, obtuse, membranous, sometimes ciliate along the

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XLV.—On the Synonymy of *Passandra*, with Descriptions of all the old and of a few new Species. By EDWARD NEWMAN, F.L.S.

Class COLEOPTERA. Natural Order CUCUJITES.

Economy.—On this subject little appears to be known: from their depressed shape and their close resemblance to the true *Cucuji*, the *Passandræ* are supposed to be wood-feeding insects.

Geographical Distribution.—Gambia, Cape of Good Hope, Sumatra, Java, Carolina, Cuba, Brazil.

Authorities and Genera.—The genus *Passandra* was established by Dalman in the appendix to Schönherr's 'Synonymia Insectorum,' in the year 1817. The only species referred to the genus was *P. sexstriata*, an insect nearly as large as *Passalus cornutus*, and inhabiting Sierra Leone and some other parts of Africa. A second species was described by Mr. G. R. Gray in the English translation of Cuvier's 'Règne Animal.' A third species I described in the 'Entomological Magazine.'

Closely allied to *Passandra* of Dalman is a genus of my own characterized in the 'Entomological Magazine' under the name *Hectarthrum*, of which one species, *H. curtipes*, from Western Africa, is described.

Very nearly related to *Passandra* and *Hectarthrum* is a third genus, characterized by Mr. Westwood in the 'Zoological Journal' under the name of *Catogenus*, and by Perty in his account of the Annulosa of Brazil, collected by Spix and Martius, under the name of *Isonotus*. Mr. Westwood refers to the *Cucujus rufus* as his type, and M. Perty describes a

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Closely allied to *Passandra* of Dalman is a genus of my own characterized in the 'Entomological Magazine' under the name *Hectarthrum*, of which one species, *H. curtipes*, from Western Africa, is described.

Very nearly related to *Passandra* and *Hectarthrum* is a third genus, characterized by Mr. Westwood in the 'Zoological Journal' under the name of *Catogenus*, and by Perty in his account of the Annulosa of Brazil, collected by Spix and Martius, under the name of *Isonotus*. Mr. Westwood refers to the *Cucujus rufus* as his type, and M. Perty describes a

10. and 11. male flower, different views, one more advanced than the other; 12. segments of the male flower separated; 13. anther; 14. pollen.

[*M. Polemanni* agrees with *M. Thomii* in most particulars, except such as are noted in the figures. The colour of its flowers is however very much brighter; that of the beards of its bracteæ a bright orange, the perianth carmine.—W. H. H.]

XLV.—On the Synonymy of *Passandra*, with Descriptions of all the old and of a few new Species. By EDWARD NEWMAN, F.L.S.

Class COLEOPTERA. Natural Order CUCUJITES.

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